

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 068138 TOSEC 030034
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 068138 TOSEC 030034

NODIS

WH FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM NEW DELHI DTD 28 MAR 1977

DTG O 281310Z MAR 1977 QTE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 4381

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 067973

1. SINCE INDIA HAS AN ENTIRELY NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR ONLY TWO DAYS (AND HAS NO BACKGROUND IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS), I ELECTED TO CARRY OUT THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA. I SAW HIM ON MARCH 28, TOLD HIM THAT THE US WAS CONSULTING WITH ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF IMPORTANT STATES IN ADVANCE OF
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THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND WENT OVER ORALLY THE TALKING POINTS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION. I LEFT WITH HIM A "NON PAPER" AS INSTRUCTED.

2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY BUT OFFERED NO COMMENT. HE SAID THE US PRESENTATION WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL GOI EXAMINATION. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT,

HE SAID, FOR THE GOI TO COMMENT BEFORE APRIL 1, PARTICULARLY SINCE A NEW GOVERNMENT HAD ENTERED INTO OFFICE ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE. HE ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND I REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 3H. WHEN I NOTED THAT WE WERE CONSULTING WITH BOTH DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH NUCLEAR PROGRAM, MEHTA ASKED WHICH UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED. I REPLIED BRAZIL, IRAN, PAKISTAN AND INDIA.

3. CERTAIN OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOI TO ACCEPT. WHILE IN AN INITIAL STATEMENT PRIMIN DESAI INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY REGARDING TESTING, I DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A BASIC CHANGE IN INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY. IN FACT, AT ANOTHER TIME IN THE CONVERSATION THE FOREIGN SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT HE EXPECTED ONLY CHANGES IN NUANCE IN INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE BEEN QUITE CORRECT IN CONSULTING WITH THE GOI. THEY WILL BE PLEASED THAT WE HAVE GIVEN THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND AS A RESULT SHOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO ENGAGE WITH GOOD WILL IN A NUCLEAR DIALOGUE WITH US.

SCHNEIDER UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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